

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 626

S.P. 198

In Senate, January 30, 1997

An Act to Provide for Department of Transportation Assistance in the Rehabilitation of Access Roads to Bridges of Historic Significance.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLS of Somerset.

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §703-A is enacted to read:

§703-A. Access roads to bridges of historic significance

1. Petition. The town officers of one or more towns or the county commissioners, if they are acting in the capacity of town officers, may petition the department for the reconstruction or rehabilitation of a town way that serves as an access road to a bridge designated pursuant to section 603 as a bridge of historic significance. The department shall hold a public hearing on the proposal. If the department decides reconstruction or rehabilitation of the road is warranted, it may arrange for reconstruction or rehabilitation under the following conditions.

A. The cost of reconstruction or rehabilitation must be paid 75% from the Highway Fund, subject to available funds, and 25% from the town, towns, county or counties involved.

B. The department has the responsibility for the supervision of the reconstruction or rehabilitation of the road.

C. No such road may be reconstructed or rehabilitated until the town, towns, county or counties involved have appropriated or raised, by taxation or otherwise, a sum sufficient to pay to the State its proportionate share of the cost of the reconstruction or rehabilitation under this section.

D. Upon completion of the reconstruction or rehabilitation, the town, towns, county or counties in which the section of the town way is located shall assume the responsibility for maintaining the road.

For the purposes of this section, "town" means any unit of local government, including municipalities, towns, cities, plantations and unorganized townships.

SUMMARY

This bill permits towns to petition the Department of Transportation to reconstruct or rehabilitate a local road that provides access to a bridge of historic significance. The department provides 75% of the funding and performs the work; the towns provide 25% of the funding.